

RE: Alberta RFA - Letter

From: "Barrack, Radey" <radey.barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
To: "Chughtai, Ayesha" <ayesha.chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Cc: "Brodhead, John" <john.brodhead@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Power, Mary-Liz" <mary-liz.power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Kurusamy, Gowthaman" <gowthaman.kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>, "Williams, Caroline (Ext.)" <caroline.williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>, "Cullinan, Annie" <annie.cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>, "Khalil, Samantha" <samantha.khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>, "Hendriks, Hilary" <hilary.hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>, "Cohen, Alexander" <alexander.cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>
Date: Sat, 12 Feb 2022 16:42:23 +0000

Revised:

February 11, 2022

The Honourable Minister McIver
Minister of Municipal Affairs
320 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Dear Minister:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 5, 2022, in which you requested federal assistance in relation to the demonstration occurring near the Coutts, Alberta, border crossing to the United States, where heavy vehicles are impeding the flow of traffic. This is a complex and dynamic situation that continues to impede the free movement of Albertans, and of critical goods and services. I understand that attempts by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), along with local and provincial officials, have been partially successful in persuading the participants of the demonstration to remove their vehicles though many challenges remain. I also understand there are alternate Ports of Entry nearby that have commercial traffic lanes and hours have been extended to help mitigate disruptions.

In recognition of these extraordinary challenges, I understand that a request has been approved for additional law enforcement resources for the RCMP under subarticle 9 of the Provincial Police Services Agreement. I am also aware that officials at Transport Canada and the Alberta Ministry of Transportation have been in regular contact to support compliance and enforcement. These can include suspending licenses and issuing fines.

These blockades are not just having an impact on Canada. From the beginning, our government has engaged with our counterparts in the United States. Min. Alghabra has spoken to his US counterpart, Sec. Buttigieg and is prepared to offer any assistance necessary to support the free flow of goods. The Canada Border Services Agency is prepared to facilitate the movement of tow trucks into Canada should they be made available by local authorities. However, I would encourage you to exhaust all alternatives you have in Alberta or regionally, including engaging industry for any equipment that may be of assistance.

My colleagues and I have given your request serious consideration and we have consulted key

partners to assess our ability to assist you. Given the lack of commercial resources, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) would be the only Federal asset that might potentially meet this request. Unfortunately, discussions have made clear that the CAF have neither the type of assets required, nor the expertise to do this without significant possible risk.

Further, I understand that Alberta has the required legal authorities necessary to enforce compliance, as a highway is considered essential infrastructure, and it is unlawful to wilfully obstruct, interrupt or interfere with the construction, maintenance, use or operation of any essential infrastructure in a manner that renders the essential infrastructure dangerous, useless, inoperative or ineffective as per the Critical Infrastructure Defence Act of Alberta. There are a number of contraventions of other applicable legislation that may also be enforced by Alberta and its police forces. I

As in any Canadian community, the local police are leading the management of the situation, and operational decisions are taken by the police within the province of jurisdiction.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for the Government of Alberta's continued collaboration and understanding. The freedom to engage in lawful, peaceful assembly is a fundamental Charter right. Rest assured that as the situation unfolds, the Government of Canada's engagement and support will continue and the use of federal resources may be reconsidered at a future date once all other provincial options and capabilities have been exhausted. I would welcome an opportunity to speak with you regarding this request at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., C.O.M., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Marco Mendicino
Minister of Public Safety
Government of Canada

-----Original Message-----

From: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
Sent: Friday, February 11, 2022 7:50 PM
To: Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
Cc: Brodhead, John <John.Brodhead@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>
Subject: Re: Alberta RFA - Letter

The Mayors office in Calgary indicated they don't have adequate resources are we confident that they do?

Sent from my iPhone

> On Feb 11, 2022, at 6:45 PM, Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca> wrote:

>

> Revised draft below:

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> The Honourable Minister McIver

> Minister of Municipal Affairs

> 320 Legislature Building

> 10800 – 97 Avenue

> Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

>

> Dear Minister:

>

> Thank you for your correspondence of February 5, 2022, in which you requested federal assistance in relation to the demonstration occurring near the Coutts, Alberta, border crossing to the United States, where heavy vehicles are impeding the flow of traffic. This is a complex and dynamic situation that continues to impede the free movement of Albertans, and of critical goods and services. I understand that attempts by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), along with local and provincial officials, have been partially successful in persuading the participants of the demonstration to remove their vehicles though many challenges remain. I also understand there are alternate Ports of Entry nearby that have commercial traffic lanes and hours have been extended to help mitigate disruptions.

>

> In recognition of these extraordinary challenges, I understand that a request has been approved for additional law enforcement resources for the RCMP under subarticle 9 of the Provincial Police Services Agreement. I am also aware that officials at Transport Canada and the Alberta Ministry of Transportation have been in regular contact to support compliance and enforcement. These can include suspending licenses and issuing fines. I am also pleased to hear that Edmonton and Calgary have equipment that might assist the RCMP in the performance of their duties.

>

> These blockades are not just having an impact on Canada. From the beginning, our government has engaged with our counterparts in the United States. Min. Alghabra has spoken to his US counterpart, Sec. Buttigieg and is prepared to offer any assistance necessary to support the free flow of goods. The Canada Border Services Agency is prepared to facilitate the movement of tow trucks into Canada should they be made available by local authorities. However, I would encourage you to exhaust all alternatives you have in Alberta or regionally, including engaging industry for any equipment that may be of assistance.

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> My colleagues and I have given your request serious consideration and we have consulted key partners to assess our ability to assist you. Given the lack of commercial resources, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) would be the only Federal asset that might potentially meet this request. Unfortunately, discussions have made clear that the CAF have neither the type of assets required, nor the expertise to do this without significant possible risk.

> Further, I understand that Alberta has the required legal authorities necessary to enforce compliance, as a highway is considered essential infrastructure, and it is unlawful to wilfully obstruct, interrupt or interfere with the construction, maintenance, use or operation of any essential infrastructure in a manner that renders the essential infrastructure dangerous, useless, inoperative or ineffective as per the Critical Infrastructure Defence Act of Alberta. There are a number of contraventions of other applicable legislation that may also be enforced by Alberta and its police forces. I

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> As in any Canadian community, the local police are leading the management of the situation,

and operational decisions are taken by the police within the province of jurisdiction.

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> Lastly, I would like to thank you for the Government of Alberta's continued collaboration and understanding. The freedom to engage in lawful, peaceful assembly is a fundamental Charter right. Rest assured that as the situation unfolds, the Government of Canada's engagement and support will continue and the use of federal resources may be reconsidered at a future date once all other provincial options and capabilities have been exhausted. I would welcome an opportunity to speak with you regarding this request at your earliest convenience.

>

> Yours sincerely,

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> The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., C.O.M., M.P.

>

> c.c.: The Honourable Marco Mendicino

> Minister of Public Safety

> Government of Canada

>

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>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

> Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 3:21 PM

> To: Brodhead, John <John.Brodhead@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>

> Cc: Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>

> Subject: RE: Alberta RFA - Letter

>

> Just following up on if there's another draft?

>

> Ayesha Chughtai (she/her/elle)

> C: Irrelevant

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Brodhead, John <John.Brodhead@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

> Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 10:10 AM

> To: Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>

> Cc: Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>

> Subject: RE: Alberta RFA - Letter

>

> Zita said she was reworking it based on our convo last night - is there a new version?

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

> Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:38 AM

> To: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Brodhead, John <John.Brodhead@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

> Cc: Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>

> Subject: RE: Alberta RFA - Letter

>

> Adding John B here as well as I know he had thoughts about the letter.

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

> Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2022 9:37 AM

> To: Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>

> Cc: Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>

> Subject: Re: Alberta RFA - Letter

>

> Morning Radey and all! Is there an updated version of the letter? Also I saw in this mornings update that there was a tow truck identified thats owned by the city of Edmonton do we want to acknowledge that in the communication? I confirmed the city of Calgary doesn't have one when the mayors office yesterday.

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On Feb 9, 2022, at 9:46 AM, Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca> wrote:

>>

>> Of course- no plans to send it unless we have your green light.

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

>> Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:45 AM

>> To: Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>

>> Cc: Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>

>> Subject: RE: Alberta RFA - Letter

>>

>> We should also definitely hold on this letter until the afternoon, post PMQP

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>

>> Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:45 AM

>> To: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

>> Cc: Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>

>> Subject: RE: Alberta RFA - LLetter

>>

>> Morning, still waiting details about RCMP deployment if available.

>>

>> Once we have that part locked, will book a call with AB.

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

>> Sent: Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:04 AM

>> To: Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

>> Cc: Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>

>> Subject: RE: Alberta RFA - LLetter

>>

>> Morning all!

>>

>> Just checking in on the plan with sending the letter, PT Outreach and edits for today.

>>

>> Thank you,

>>

>> Ayesha Chughtai (she/her/elle)

>> C: Irrelevant

>>

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>

>> Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 10:08 PM

>> To: Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>

>> Cc: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cohen, Alexander <Alexander.Cohen@ps-sp.gc.ca>

>> Subject: RE: Alberta RFA - LLetter

>>

>> Adding Cohen, who's been talking to media on this throughout the day.

>>

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
>> Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 9:44 PM
>> To: Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>
>> Cc: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Kurusamy, Gowthaman <Gowthaman.Kurusamy@ps-sp.gc.ca>
>> Subject: Re: Alberta RFA - L'etter
>>
>> Will chase down exact reference.
>>
>> As for exact numbers of RCMP, don't have line of sight but adding Gowthaman here.
>>
>> On Feb 8, 2022, at 21:35, Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca> wrote:
>>
>>
>> Sorry for the delay. Maybe a silly comment but I've heard this section of the Provincial Police Services Agreement referred to as 9.2 before so just wanted to check.
>> If possible it would be great to also offer some further details about what'll be offered to the province in terms of RCMP resources.
>>
>> From: Power, Mary-Liz
>> Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 5:55 PM
>> To: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>
>> Subject: RE: Alberta RFA - L'etter
>>
>> Thanks Radey,
>> Will review & get back to you. Please hold until we give the green light. I agree that a call between ministers is necessary.
>>
>>
>> From: Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca<mailto:Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>>
>> Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 5:54 PM
>> To: Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca<mailto:Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>>; Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca<mailto:Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>>; Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca<mailto:Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca<mailto:Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca<mailto:Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca<mailto:Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>>
>> Subject: RE: Alberta RFA - L'etter
>>
>> Min. Savage was asked in the press conference if she is contemplating civil action and she said they are looking at the potential of a civil injunction but are giving the RCMP time to de-escalate. I don't know if we want to encourage the use of an injunction?
>>
>> Is there a number we can assign to how many RCMP officers have been deployed?

>>
>> Lastly, I would strongly encourage a call with Min. Blair and McIver before the letter is sent, and I'll give a heads up to PO when we're ready too but I think we need to brace for the Premier not responding kindly to this so we just need to ensure that we have our messaging straight between all the offices on this front.
>>
>> Thanks Radey!
>>
>> Ayesha Chughtai (she/her/elle)
>> C: Irrelevant
>>
>> From: Barrack, Radey <Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca<mailto:Radey.Barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>>
>> Sent: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 5:40 PM
>> To: Power, Mary-Liz <Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca<mailto:Mary-Liz.Power@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>>; Chughtai, Ayesha <Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca<mailto:Ayesha.Chughtai@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>>; Williams, Caroline <Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca<mailto:Caroline.Williams@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>>; Cullinan, Annie <Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca<mailto:Annie.Cullinan@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>>; Khalil, Samantha <Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca<mailto:Samantha.Khalil@pmo-cpm.gc.ca>>; Hendriks, Hilary <Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca<mailto:Hilary.Hendriks@qpc-cpr.gc.ca>>
>> Subject: Alberta RFA - LERter
>>
>> Hello all,
>>
>> Starting a new chain on the letter to Alberta on their RFA as we now have a proposed reply. The letter lays out some support we have provided to the province through additional law enforcement capacity and discussions with transport officials but rejects the use of CAF resources. The trucks that CAF does have are not suited to the task and I know there is concern about setting a precedent.
>>
>> Happy to get your input on this.
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>>
>> The Honourable Minister McIver
>>
>> Minister of Municipal Affairs
>>
>> 320 Legislature Building
>>
>> 10800 – 97 Avenue
>>
>> Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6
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>> Dear Minister:
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>>
>> Thank you for your correspondence of February 5, 2022, in which you requested federal

assistance in relation to the demonstration occurring near the Coutts, Alberta, border crossing to the United States, where heavy vehicles are impeding the flow of traffic. This is a complex and dynamic situation that continues to impede the free movement of Albertans, and of critical goods and services. I understand that attempts by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), along with local and provincial officials, have been partially successful in persuading the participants of the demonstration to remove their vehicles and that the road is open, albeit with a reduced volume. I also understand there are alternate Ports of Entry nearby that have commercial traffic lanes and hours have been extended to help mitigate disruptions.

>>

>> In recognition of these extraordinary challenges, I understand that a request has been approved for additional law enforcement resources for the RCMP under subarticle 9.3 of the Provincial Police Services Agreement. I am also aware that officials at Transport Canada and the Ministry of Transportation have been in regular contact to support compliance and enforcement.

>>

>> My colleagues and I have given your request serious consideration and we have consulted key partners to assess our ability to assist you. Given the lack of commercial resources, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) would be the only Federal asset that might potentially meet this request. Unfortunately discussions have made clear that the CAF have neither the type of assets required, nor the expertise to do this without significant risk.

>> Further, I understand that Alberta has the required legal authorities necessary to enforce compliance, as a highway is considered essential infrastructure, and it is unlawful to wilfully obstruct, interrupt or interfere with the construction, maintenance, use or operation of any essential infrastructure in a manner that renders the essential infrastructure dangerous, useless, inoperative or ineffective as per the Critical Infrastructure Defence Act of Alberta. There are a number of contraventions of other applicable legislation that may also be enforced by Alberta and its police forces.

>>

>> As in any Canadian community, the local police are leading the management of the situation, and operational decisions are taken by the police within the province of jurisdiction.

>>

>> Lastly, I would like to thank you for the Government of Alberta's continued collaboration and understanding. The freedom to engage in lawful, peaceful assembly is a fundamental Charter right. Rest assured that as the situation unfolds, the Government of Canada's engagement and support will continue and the use of federal resources may be reconsidered at a future date once all other provincial options and capabilities have been exhausted. I would welcome an opportunity to speak with you regarding this request at your earliest convenience.

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>> Yours sincerely,

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>>
>> The Honourable Bill Blair, P.C., C.O.M., M.P.
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>>
>> c.c.: The Honourable Marco Mendicino
>>
>> Minister of Public Safety
>>
>> Government of Canada
>>
>>
>>
>> Radey Barrack
>> Director of Operations
>> Office of the President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister of Emergency
Preparedness Radey.barrack@qpc-cpr.gc.ca<mailto:Radey.barrack@ps-sp.gc.ca>
>> [cid:image001.jpg@01D81D33.D5E67EE0]
>>